

# MICHIGAN PROBATE JUDGES ASSOCIATION

437 East Division  
Cadillac, Michigan 49601  
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## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

March 15, 2011

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Chair of Families, Seniors & Human Services  
210 Farnum Building  
Lansing, Michigan

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President-Elect

Hon. ELWOOD L. BROWN  
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Hon. LISA SULLIVAN  
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In Re: Senate Bills 218, 219 and 220

Hon. C. JOSEPH SCHWEDLER  
Secretary

Senator Emmons:

Hon. ROBERT J. BUTTS  
Presiding Judge

On behalf of the Michigan Probate Judges Association we wish to support the passage of Senate Bills 218, 219 and 220. As you know, this legislation relates to the Michigan Children's Institute (MCI) superintendent. We have had the advantage of Bill Johnson acting in this capacity for some time now and he does an excellent job in reviewing adoptions. Currently he is the only person within MCI who can give consent to a particular adoptive family. Any competing parties' cases are also under his direction. His consent to adoptions is required before the adoption itself can be finalized. Inasmuch as he is the only person designated, this is a daunting task.

Hon. SUSAN L. DOBRICH  
Immediate Past President

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These bills allow the MCI Superintendent to delegate a designee for review of the consents. In particular, the uncontested adoptions will be well served by having a designee. In the estimation of Michigan Probate Judges Association, this will facilitate the permanency of children in the abuse and neglect system, certainly a goal that we can all agree upon. By way of insuring that the designee is equally effective, we would ask that the job qualification of the designee be identical to that of the actual Superintendent.

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We appreciate your consideration of our position.

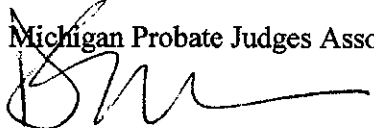
Hon. WILLIAM M. DOHERTY  
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Very truly yours,

## NON-VOTING

Hon. MICHAEL J. ANDEREGG  
Editor of INTER-COM

Michigan Probate Judges Association

  
Dorene S. Allen  
Chair of Juvenile and Adoption Issues

Hon. GERALD SUPINA  
Emeriti Judges Association

Cc: Cusmano, Kandler & Reed